

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 241032

EXDIS - FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE

FOLLOWING LUMBUMBASHI 859 SENT ACTION KINSHASA INFO SECSTATE
BRUSSELS OCT 6, 1977 REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUBUMBASHI 0859

EXDIS

E O. 11652 XGDS-1

TAGS: PINS PGOV CG

SUBJECT: RETURN OF MWANT YAV TO SHABA

1. GRAND CHIEF OF LUNDA TRIBE, THE MWANT YAV (DAVID
TSHOMBE) RETURNED TO LUBUMBASHI ON OCTOBER 4 AFTER DE
TENETION IN KINSHASA SINCE LAST WEEK IN JUNE. HE CALLED
AT CONSULATE ON MORNING OF OCTOBER 6 TO EXPRESS HIS
THANKS FOR AMERICAN INTERVENTION WHICH HE WAS SURE HAD
LED TO DECISION BY THE PRESIDENT TO RELEASE HIM. I
DID NOT COMMENT ON THE STATEMENT. HE ADDED HE WAS
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CERTAIN THAT CARTER ADMINISTRATIONS CONCERN FOR HUMAN
RIGHTS HAD BEEN DECISIVE FACTOR.

2. MWANT YAV SAID HE WAS DETAILED IN LATE MAY IN KOL
WEZI ON GROUNDS THAT HE HAD HAD CONTACT WITH INVADERS
AS EARLY AS DECEMBER OF 1976. HE SAID HE SUFFERED HEART ATTACK
IN EARLY JUNE (CONTRARY TO REPORT AT THE TIME OF

AN ATTEMPTED SUICIDE) WAS HOSPITALIZED FOR 10 DAYS AND SUBSEQUENTLY TRANSFERRED TO KINSHASA. IN KINSHASA HE WAS DETAINED IN A COMFORTABLE HOUSE FOR ABOUT ONE MONTH THEN TRANSFERRED TO A CELL WHICH HE SAID WAS 1-1/2 M BY 2-2/2 M FOR THE NEXT TWO MONTHS. THERE HE RECEIVED THREE MEALS A DAY, BUT CELL HAD NO FURNATURE NOR BED. HIS ONLY CLOTHING WAS A PAIR OF SHORTS.

3. MWANT YAV SAID HE WAS INTERROGATED EXTENSIVELY BEFORE NGUZA TRIAL. HE MAINTAINED THAT HE TOLD AUTHORITIES THAT SINCE 1975 HE HAD NOT IET MGUZA WHOM HE DESCRIVED AS NEPHEW OF HIS FATHER'S DIE. HE NEVER PASSED ANY MESSAGES THROUGH NGUZA ABOUT POSSIBLE PROBLEMS WITH ANGOLA, HE MAINTAINESLHAT ALL CHARGES AGAINST THEM BOTH WERE FALSE. HE ASSERTED THAT NGUZA ONLY CRIME WAS APPEARING TO BE A LIKELY SUCCESSOR TO PRESIDENT MOBUTU. HE SAID HE DID NOT SPEAK WITH MGUZA DIRECTLY BEFORE, DURING OR AFTER THE TRIAL. HE BELIEVED NGUZA WAS PRESENTLY DETAILED AT MILITARY CAMP AT KATAKOLI.

4. AFTER THE TRIAL HE WAS TOLD THAT HE WAS FREE. WHEN ASKED WHAT THAT MEANT HE SAID HE WAS ALLOWED TO TRAVEL ANYWHERE,BUT HE RECOGNIZED THAT HE COULD BE PICKED UP AND DETAINED AGAIN AT ANYTIME. HE SAID
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HE PLANS TO GO TO KOLWEZI ON SUNDAY FOR MEDICAL CHECK(RELATED TO HIS RECENT HEART ATTACK) TO HIS FARM NEAR KANIAMA AND THEN TO KAPANGA ABOUT THE END OF OCTOBER TO MAKE A SURVEY OF CONDITIONS AND NEEDS OF HIS PEOPLE. HE SAID HE KNEW VERY LITTLE ABOUT FATE OF FAMILY MEMBERS WHO HAD STAYED IN KAPANGA. WHEN ASKED IF HE SAW ANY DANGER IN RETURNING TO KAPANGA HE SAID NO BECUASE HIS POEPLK KNEW HIS FIRST CONCERN WAS THEIR WELFARE.

5. CONSULATE COMMENT: MWANT YAV WAS 30 POUNDS LIGHTER AND HAD GROWN A SMALL BEART SINCE OUR PREVIOUS MEETING IN MAY. HE SPOKE DIRECTLY AND SEEMED TO BE IN GOOD MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH. HE WAS ABLE TO OFFER NO REASON FOR HIS RELEASE FROM DETENTION. TWO RASONS SEEM MOST LIKELY.FIRST THE GOVERNMENT SEES NO POINT IN HIS CONTINUED DETE TION AFTER NGUZA'S TRIAL. HE HAS SERVED PURPOSE HAVING TESTIFIED AGAINST FELLOW LUNDAN. GESTURE AT TIME OF ELECTION SHOWS BENEVOLENCE OF GOVERNMENT TO QUESTIONING WORLD OPINION, SECOND LUNDAS BOTH IN KAPANGA AREA AND AMONG INVADERS ARE REPORTEDLY

UNHAPPY ABOUT HIS COOPERATION DURING SHABA WAR WITH KINSHASA GOVERNMENT. KAPANGA LUNDAS ARE REPORTEDLY ESPECIALLY UNHAPPY ABOUT HIS ATTEMPT DURING WAR TO SEND MESSANGERS INTO KAPANGA ASKING SUBORDINATE CHIEFS TO SPY ON INVADERS FOR MOBUTO GOVERNMENT. WHEN MESSENGER CAPTURED BY INVADERS, FLNC SUSPICIOUS AND RETRIBUTIONS AGAINST LOCAL LUNDA REPORTEDLY INCREASED. GOVERNMENT MAY FEEL MWANT YAV COULD HAVE BECOME MARTYR IN KINSHASA PRISON BUT AS RESULT OF ACTIVITIES DURING WAR MAY HAVE DEVELOPED ENOUGH ENEMIES AMONG HIS PEOPLE TO RENDER HIS POSITION UNTENABLE.

6. NEVERTHELESS, THE POSITION OF MWANT YAV RE
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MAINS HIGHLY ESTEEMED AMONG ALL SHABA'S POPULATION. THERE HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL NOTICE AS YET ABOUT MWANT YAV'S RETURN BUT SHABANO IN GENERAL CAN BE EXPECTED TO GREET HIS RETURN AS SIGN OF PRESIDENT'S FORGIVING NATURE. BORG UNQUOTE
CHRISTOPHER

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